United Nations S/2003/379

Security Council

Distr.: General
3 April 2003

Original: English

**Letter dated 3 April 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to refer to the letter of 28 March 2003 from the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations addressed to individual members of the Security Council in connection with the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (see annex).

I should be grateful if the above-mentioned letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jeremy **Greenstock**

03-30878 (E) 030403

## Annex

### Letter dated 28 March 2003 from the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations

I have the honour to refer to the open meeting of the Security Council concerning the situation in Timor-Leste that was held on 10 March 2003, in which Member States considered the special report of the Secretary-General (S/2003/243) on the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET).

During the meeting, delegations generally expressed concern regarding the security implications of the events that have taken place in the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste in recent months. In this connection, they endorsed the broad objective of the recommendations in the Secretary-General's report, namely, to reinforce the capability of UNMISET to develop Timor-Leste's police force, while taking the necessary measures to ensure the short-term security and stability that are required for this training to succeed. A number of delegations, including that of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, endorsed in full the Secretary-General's recommendations as an appropriate response to the current situation.

At the same time, several delegations sought to review further possible adjustments to the military component of UNMISET. Through informal discussions, interested Member States subsequently explored with the Secretariat the kind of option that would address some concerns that had been expressed and that could meet with the support of the Security Council. These discussions suggested that such an option would include the retention of two battalions within regions adjoining the Tactical Coordination Line, together with associated force elements, including mobility; and a more gradual downsizing to 1,750 military peacekeepers in December 2003 than had been foreseen, although not full retention of 3,870 military peacekeepers up to that period as was reflected in the annex to the Secretary-General's report.

I hope that this information can assist Member States in their consideration of the recommendations in the Secretary-General's special report.

(*Signed*) Jean-Marie **Guéhenno**
Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations